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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

JANUARY 23,2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for January 23, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICS, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS  
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2. PERINCEK: FOUR AMERICANS MUST BE DEPORTED (Milliyet) Dogu Perincek, leader of the Workers' Party (IP), claimed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had found out that the U.S. and the PKK had had meetings and that the U.S. had given the PKK USD 125 million. Perincek noted that he had sent a file on this subject to the Turkish General Staff (TGS). Perincek added that both the U.S. Embassy and the PKK had confirmed these contacts in their statements. According to Perincek, "the U.S. Embassy's second man Robert Deutsch, Joseph Penington of the CIA Station in Adana, Political Counselor Nicholas Kass, and Istanbul U.S. Consulate General Political Unit Chief Stephen C. Kimmel" arranged the contacts. "These persons must be deported," he said.

3. WAR EXERCISE AT INCIRLIK (Sabah) While preparations continue at the Incirlik Air Base (Adana), nearly 5,000 U.S. soldiers, as well as their families, are carrying out an exercise to practice getting into shelters in the shortest time possible, in preparation for a possible nuclear attack. The exercise, in which all soldiers and civilians participate, will last three days. Experts said the base is fully equipped for a war and noted that shelters house materials that will meet all kinds of needs for a period of three months.

4. THREE TURKISH FIRMS WILL SUPPLY BUNKS (Sabah) Three Turkish firms, Alfa, Pirlil, and Maya, have won the nearly USD 1 million bidding tender opened for bunks and beds for U.S. soldiers to be deployed at Adana's Incirlik Air Base. The firms will reportedly provide the 4,400 bunk beds and 8,800 beds by the requested date. Incirlik Air Base will reportedly open new bidding tenders in the upcoming days.

5. U.S. EXPERTS RETURNING (Milliyet) Of the 150-person U.S. delegation surveying airports, ports and railway stations in Turkey as part of preparations for a possible operation against Iraq, two teams flew out of the Incirlik Air Base (Adana) on January 22. Another group of U.S. experts is reportedly scheduled to leave this morning (1/23).

6. ANTI-WAR SENTIMENTS (Milli Gazete/Turkiye) Adana Chamber of Industry President Umit Ozgumus said the possible U.S. operation against Iraq would give most damage to Turkey. Bas called on Turkey to comply with U.N. resolutions. Adana Chamber of Commerce (ACOC) President Saban Bas, for his part, said a war had started in the region 12 years ago and continued since 1991. Bas added Turkey suffered a loss of USD 100-150 billion and the Southeast a loss of USD 60-70 billion from this war. Bolge reported that the Adana chapter of the Public Training Center (Halkevleri) had opened its "Peace Declaration" to the public's signature in protest of the possible U.S. operation against Iraq. Evrensel reported that police had arrested seven People's Democracy Party (HADEP) members in Mus and Igdir provinces for distribution of anti-war manifestos prepared by the HADEP's National Youth

Commission. Manifestos, as well as some books, were confiscated during a search of the HADEP offices. The Adana chapter of the Emekli-Sen labor union protested a possible U.S. attack against Iraq and distributed "Let's Stop This War" handbills. Several political parties, the Pharmacists' Chamber, and the Human Rights Association supported the protest.

#### 17. DISK RELEASES ANTI-WAR STATEMENT IN DIYARBAKIR

(Milli Gazete) In a press conference prior to the Confederation of the Revolutionary Workers' Unions' (DISK) Presidents' Council Meeting in Diyarbakir, DISK National President Suleyman Celebi said DISK supported the anti-war attitudes displayed by the government, but did not find them sufficient. Celebi indicated that the fact that DISK Regional Representative's Office had been re-opened in Diyarbakir after a long period of time was a significant step for workers. He noted that the region had not experienced ordinary life for a long time, facing economic, as well as social and cultural, difficulties. He added: "During this time, people could not enjoy their fundamental human rights and political freedoms. New obstacles emerge just when some things are about to change. A war threat and ploys of those expecting a profit from a war emerge. The reason why we are having our meeting here is extremely obvious. A war is at our doorstep, that is, right next to our Southeast. We will suffer its pains and difficulties all together. Our citizens in Istanbul and those in Diyarbakir, Sirnak, and Hakkari will not live (suffer from) the problem at the same level. Our Southeastern provinces and villages will be among targets of mortar shells and long-range missiles. Established orders (peace and order) will be disrupted, newly-established homes will be ruined once again." Celebi stressed that DISK would shout anti-war cries at Sirnak's Habur border gate, (possible U.S.) war's zero point, on January 24 and start staging new anti-war demonstrations beginning on January 26. Turkiye quoted Celebi as saying DISK officials met in Diyarbakir to discuss what can be done to prevent a possible U.S.-led war in Iraq.

#### 18. ALLEGATION OF INCREASED ANTI-DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES

(Cumhuriyet) The People's Democracy Party (HADEP) Youth Commission reacted negatively to the arrest of five HADEP officials and two HADEP members in Diyarbakir. The national center (the headquarters) of the HADEP Youth Commission released a January 22 statement stating that Turkey is being pulled into a war as a result of possible U.S. military intervention in Iraq. The statement added that, as a result of this, anti-democratic practices advanced, with many political party officials and members having been arrested for staging anti-war demonstrations. It called on the government to end these practices.

#### 19. TURKEY IS READY FOR A WAVE OF REFUGEES

(Turkiye) Ferda Cemiloglu Cilalioglu, Former President of the Refugees and Migrants Solidarity Association (SGDD), said Turkey is ready for an influx of refugees likely to come from Iraq in the event of a war. Cilalioglu added Turkey is now more systematic, compared to the Gulf War. She noted that, between 1988-1991, Turkey three times had opened its doors to a total of 460,000 refugees from Iraq, which she described as the largest migration movement after the Second World War.

#### 110. ANTI-NUCLEAR TRAINING IN ADANA

(Turkiye/Bolge) The Turkish Atomic Energy Organization (TAEK), in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, organized a seminar to inform police and Jandarma about possible nuclear attacks. A similar activity was held in Mersin, as well. In his speech, TAEK's Nuclear Engineer Yilmaz Bektur said Turkey was not under the threat of nuclear attack, claiming that the seminar was not related to war. "We are informing our nation because the subject of nuclear energy has entered our lives at all stages. That is, it is not directly related to war," he continued. He added that these seminars

had been held in 16 of the 81 provinces and would be repeated in the remaining provinces.

11. SEVEN KADEK SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN ADANA (Bolge) During anti-KADEK operations in Adana's Sakirpasa and Ova districts, Anti-Terror Department teams arrested seven KADEK (PKK) suspects, a district chief among them. With orders from high-level KADEK officials, the arrestees had reportedly been plotting to launch attacks against security forces. The arrestees reportedly admitted having staged a tire-burning demonstration during which they closed the D-400 highway to traffic and having plotted Molotov cocktail attacks against official buildings and schools.

12. BOMB ATTACK ON AK PARTY OFFICE (Evrensel) Unidentified assailants threw a Molotov cocktail at AK Party's Kayapinar (Diyarbakir) district office on January 22. No casualties were reported, while the office's window glasses were broken. An investigation is underway.

13. DIYARBAKIR HRA ISSUES ITS 2002 REPORT (Evrensel) In a press conference, the Diyarbakir chapter of the Human Rights Association (HRA) publicized its 2002 report on human rights violations. Chapter President Selahattin Demirtas described the lifting of the State of Emergency (OHAL), the abolition of the death penalty, and legal reforms regarding mother-tongue education, as well as amendments to the Meetings, Demonstrations and Marches Law, as positive. Demirtas claimed human rights abuses increased despite these improvements. Demirtas noted that bans on the import of certain newspapers and magazines had automatically ended with the lifting of OHAL, but "OHAL habits" continued. He pointed to a 101% increase in landmine accidents in 2002 compared to the previous year. Arrests of pro-mother tongue advocates increased by 15%, with torture remaining on the agenda. Demirtas stressed that tension resulting from isolation imposed on KADEK/PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is gradually turning into social unrest, endangering peace and compromise efforts in recent years.

14. TRIAL OF BISMIL (DIYARBAKIR) VILLAGE GUARDS CONTINUES (Evrensel) The trial of ten Bismil (Diyarbakir) village guards continued at the Diyarbakir Felony Court on January 22. The village guards, including four in custody, were charged with killing three people and wounding four others as a result of an armed attack on two families who had returned to Bismil's Ugrak village. The court ordered the four defendants to remain in custody and adjourned the trial until a later date to await the results of a criminal analysis of the bullet casings found at the scene.

15. MOTHER WANTS HER JAILED SON TO BE GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT (Evrensel) Fatma Kurt, mother of Feridun Kurt incarcerated in Adana's Ceyhan township, claimed her son had been denied medical treatment for health problems that resulted from torture in the prison. Kurt alleged she had many times applied to officials, but failed to receive a positive result.

16. AZADIYA WELAT MARKS ITS EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY (Evrensel) Kurdish-language Azadiya Welat Newspaper organized a celebration on January 21 to mark its eighth anniversary. Democratic People's Party (DEHAP) leader Mehmet Abbasoglu and Feridun Celik, HADEP Mayor of Diyarbakir, as well as representatives of labor unions, associations, and mass organizations attended the celebration. In his Kurdish-language opening remarks, Azadiya Welat Diyarbakir Representative Sakir Ozaydin expressed his wish for people to live together peacefully. Kurdish songs were also played during the celebration.

17. STATISTICS ON CRIMINAL INCIDENTS IN ADANA

(Turkiye) According to the Adana Security Directorate's Press, Protocol and Public Relations Department, 50 different terror incidents took place in Adana in 2002, with 284 suspects arrested. Of these suspects, 62 were ordered to remain in custody, while the remaining 186 were set free. In the same year, 77 people were stabbed or shot to death for various reasons, while another 75 people were killed in traffic accidents. In connection with these murders, 169 suspects were arrested; police are searching for another 30 suspects. Police also launched operations against 48 different crime gangs in Adana and vicinity, arresting 500 suspects. Of these suspects, 163 were ordered held. In connection with 600 financial crimes, 1,036 of a total of 1,250 suspects were arrested, with 111 ordered held. In addition, the Narcotics Department arrested 648 people and confiscated 202 kilograms of drugs.

#### ECONOMIC AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

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118. CUKOBIRLIK PAYS FARMERS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS (Dunya) Yakup Sahin, Managing Director of Adana's Agricultural Complex (Cukobirlik), announced having paid a total of TL 90.6 trillion (approx. USD 54.3 million) to farmers for their products in the 2002-2003 period. In the same period, Cukobirlik exported products amounting to TL 8.8 trillion (approx. USD 5.3 million). In 2002-2003, Cukobirlik purchased 122,813 tons of seed cotton, 36,914 tons of soybeans, and 7.5 tons of peanuts in return for TL 90.6 trillion.

119. BATMAN RESIDENTS TURN TO STALE BREAD (Evrensel) Following the example seen in Mus, which is Turkey's poorest province, people in Batman have also reportedly begun to buy more and more stale bread. A loaf of stale bread sells at TL 250,000 (approx. USD .15), while a loaf of newly baked bread sells at TL 400,000 (approx. USD .24).  
HOLTZ